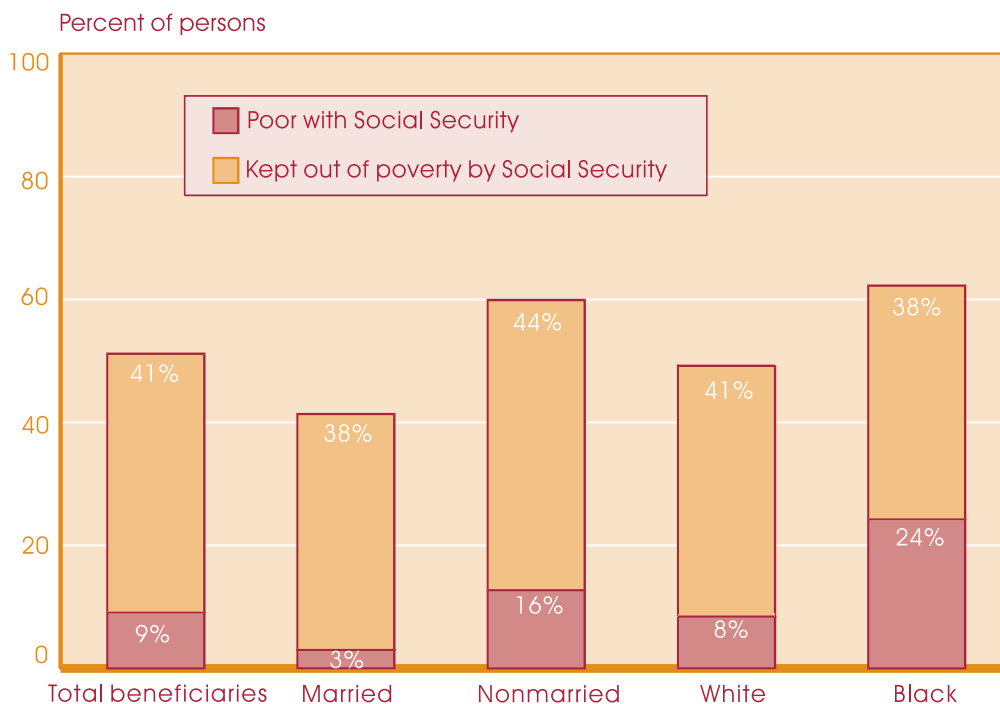


Social Security plays a pivotal role in reducing poverty

Although there are aged beneficiaries with family income below the poverty line,* the poverty rate would be much higher if they did not have Social Security benefits. Nine percent of aged beneficiaries are poor, and 41% are kept out of poverty by their Social Security benefits—so that the total poverty rate without Social Security would be 50%. Although poverty rates vary considerably by marital status and race, the proportion kept out of poverty by their Social Security benefits is about 40% for all groups.



*Based on family income of aged persons to conform with official measures of poverty.